## **ADELAIDE INSTITUTE**

PO Box 3300 Adelaide 5067 Australia

Online ISSN 1440-9828



Mob: 61+401692057

Email: info@adelaideinstitute.org Web: http://www.adelaideinstitute.org

September 2011 No 586





















### **Considered Tasteless**

The Berlin elections raise an issue that will not go away. An NPD election plackard features NPD chief Udo Voigt on a motorbike with hand on the throttle, and the caption/slogan reads: 'gas geben - accelerate', which literally in German means 'giving gas', and that for some has an association with gas chambers.

Annelie Naumann: NPD-Wahlkampf: "Gas geben"-Slogan empört Berliner Politiker, 11.08.2011



Einen Monat vor der Wahl zum Berliner Abgeordnetenhaus sorgt die rechtsextreme NPD mit einem Wahlplakat für Aufregung. Zu sehen sind der NPD-Bundesvorsitzende Voigt auf seinem Motorrad - und der Slogan "Gas geben", den manche Berliner als Provokation lesen.

Berlin - Betont lässig blickt NPD-Chef Udo Voigt vom Wahlplakat. Er sitzt auf einem Motorrad, seine Hand umfasst den Gasgriff. Quer über das Plakat prangt in großen Buchstaben "GAS geben!" Er ist natürlich nicht der erste Politiker, der sich in Ledermontur auf einem Motorrad ablichten lässt. Das wirkt cool, das ist super fürs Image. Denn auf so ein Motorrad setzen sich freiheitsliebende, unabhängige, unkonventionelle Typen.

Im <u>Berliner Wahlkampf</u> aber weckt der "GAS gebende" Voigt ganz andere Assoziationen. Andreas Gram (CDU), Vorsitzender des Rechtsausschusses im Abgeordnetenhaus, bezeichnet die Plakate als "menschenverachtend". Er sei sprachlos, denn die "Rechtsextremen" spielen ganz offensichtlich mit der "Assoziation von Gaskammern". Als Demokrat "müsse man sich äußern".

Auch Volker Ratzmann, Fraktionschef der Grünen, bewertet die Plakataktion als "bewusste Provokation". Elke Breitenbach, integrationspolitische Sprecherin der Linken, lässt das Plakat von Juristen auf strafrechtliche Relevanz prüfen.

Die NPD klebte am Wochenende gleich 22.000 Exemplare der umstrittenen Wahlplakate an die Masten der Hauptstadt. Voigt tritt als Spitzenkandidat der Rechtsextremen bei der Berliner Abgeordnetenhauswahl an. Seit 2005 sitzt der NPD-Chef im Stadtparlament von Treptow-Köpenick.

Voigt findet die Vorwürfe "haltlos". Er selbst findet die Vorwürfe haltlos: "Ich bin passionierter Motorradfahrer und will mit Gas ins Abgeordnetenhaus. Nach 66 Jahren muss man aufhören, Dinge aus der Vergangenheit zu berücksichtigen." Er habe das Plakat 43 Personen vorgelegt, nicht alle seien Parteimitglieder gewesen. Nur in einem Fall habe es eine negative Assoziation ausgelöst.

Trotz der <u>erneuten Debatte um ein Verbot der Partei</u> schreckt die NPD nicht vor Geschmacklosigkeiten zurück. Schon 2008 hatte sie auf Wahlplakaten Einwanderern aus dem Nahen Osten "guten Heimflug" gewünscht. Als Transportmittel hatte

sie einen fliegenden Teppich empfohlen. Auch im aktuellen Wahlkampf findet sich dieses Motiv wieder.

Parteichef Voigt selbst ist bekannt für seine fremdenfeindlichen Äußerungen. "Das Boot ist voll. Wir wollen keine weitere Zuwanderung", erklärt er in seinem aktuellen Wahlkampfvideo. Er fordert eine sofortige "Ausländerrückführung".

Gelegentlich gerät Voigt wegen solcher Parolen mit der Justiz in Konflikt. Im April 2009 wurde er wegen Volksverhetzung zu einer Bewährungsstrafe verurteilt, inzwischen wurde er in der Berufungsverhandlung freigesprochen . Er hatte bei der Fußball-WM 2006 den Nationalspieler Owomoyela mit einem rassistischen Flyer beleidigt und eine "Überfremdung" der Fußball-Nationalmannschaft angeprangert.

Für Berlins Regierenden Bürgermeister Klaus Wowereit stellt sich angesichts der aktuellen Debatte über ein NPD-Verbot eine grundsätzliche Frage: "Es ist und bleibt unerträglich", sagte er Anfang August, "dass die NPD - solange sie nicht verboten ist - im Rahmen der Wahlkampfkostenerstattung nach wie vor aus Steuergeldern unterstützt werden muss."

#### Deutscher Vorname mit fünf Buchstaben: "Adolf"

Die Berliner NPD sorgte im laufenden Wahlkampf schon einmal für einen Eklat: In ihrer aktuellen Informationsbroschüre erscheint ein Kreuzworträtsel, das nach einem deutschen Vornamen sucht, "der etwas aus der Mode gekommen ist". Die Lösung mit fünf Buchstaben: "Adolf".

Weiterhin wird in dem Rätsel nach einem "deutschen Politiker ('Friedensflieger') des 20. Jahrhunderts" gesucht. Die Lösung, vier Buchstaben: "Hess". Der Stellvertreter Adolf Hitlers, Rudolf Heß, flog 1941 auf eigene Faust nach Schottland, um mit der britischen Regierung über ein Ende des Krieges zu verhandeln.

Das Preisausschreiben ging selbst Parteimitgliedern zu weit. Für Jörg Krebs, Vorsitzender des Landesverbands Hessen, ist das Rätsel die "dämlichste PR-Aktion der NPD aller Zeiten".

Bislang ist die NPD nicht im Berliner Landesparlament vertreten, bei der letzten Wahl vor fünf Jahren war die Partei an der Fünf-Prozent-Hürde gescheitert. Jedoch schaffte es die Partei in einige Berliner Stadtparlamente, hier gilt nur eine Drei-Prozent-Hürde. Dieses Jahr stellt die Partei in elf der zwölf Berliner Bezirke eine Liste auf.

## Hitler's birth town revokes dictator's honorary citizenship

## HAARETZ.com Published 12:51 08.07.11

Braunau town council's decision to remove Hitler from list of honorary citizens largely due to increasing media pressure, follows similar moves in other Austrian communities.

Adolf Hitler's Austrian birth town of Braunau confirmed Friday that it had removed the German dictator from its list of honorary citizens, in a symbolic step that came as a reaction to increasing media pressure.

The town council's decision on Thursday evening followed recent similar moves in several other Austrian communities.

Although Hitler had never been stripped of his citizenship, his honorary status expired with his death in 1945, Green party councilman Manfred Hackl told the German Press Agency DPA from Braunau. "We revoked the citizenship preventively, to solve this issue once and for all," he said.

In May, a successful vote to strip Hitler of this honor in Amstetten ended in a scandal when two far-right Freedom Party councilmen abstained, arguing that such a step was unnecessary because the dictator is no longer alive.

The events in Amstetten had led journalists to search for additional towns where Hitler might still be an honorary citizen, Hackl said. "The media created some pressure," he said.

Hitler, who was born in 1889 in Braunau, was named an honorary citizen in a number of Austrian towns during the Natzi era.

Waidhofen an der Ybbs and Klagenfurt recently followed Amstetten's example and in Braunau, the Freedom Party joined the consensus.

"In this manner, the town council of Braunau set a clear, unambiguous example and assumed historical and political responsibility," Mayor Johannes Waidbacher said in a statement.

http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/hitler-s-birth-town-revokes-dictator-s-honorary-citizenship-1.372142
More at: <u>Israel accepts Taiwan apology for photoof youth in Nazi uniforms</u> Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2011 3:43 PM.

# Me thinketh an alleged insider protests too much – and he embraces the delusional left-right divide?

[Philip] Mendes and [Nick] Dryenfurth [sic] ... are so racist that they do not even notice violence against Palestinians'. 'Look at how they support Israeli expansionism, they of the responsible Zionist left'.

So wrote Michael Brull on his eponymous blog (<u>The Muslims are coming!</u>, November 11, 2009).

In two sentences Brull made three 'basic' factual errors, to borrow a line from his The Drum article <u>The boring truth about Chomsky</u> (July 1, 2011). The misspelling of my tongue-twister surname is easy enough to make. But the allegations that I am a racist (Zionist) are reprehensible, defamatory and utterly false. A postgraduate law student, Brull should consider himself lucky that legal proceedings did not ensue.

Brull presumably believes that as a defender of Israel in the face of relentless global campaign of delegitimisation - sometimes disingenuously branded as the Boycott, Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement - I am somehow anti-Arab or Islamophobic. Strange, then, that I would write a piece for The Punch during 2009 singing the praises of Muslim immigration and spruiking the cause of asylum seekers more generally. As for the Zionist accusation, strictly speaking I am no such thing. In fact, my political and intellectual stance is closer to that of non-Zionism.

Whilst I support Israel's continuing existence I do not subscribe to key Zionist principles, namely that Jewish life in Israel is inherently superior to that of the Diaspora, and nor as a non-religious Jewish-identifying agnostic do I base that support upon religious grounds.

Crucially I also reject the Zionist proposition that Jews inevitably cannot live amongst non-Jews. These are complex distinctions, much like the Palestinian/Israel conflict itself, which do not conform to a binary Zionist/Anti-Zionist worldview propounded by the likes of Brull, his anarchist idol Noam Chomsky and blogger-journalist Antony Loewenstein.

It is, therefore, the height of chutzpah for Brull to identify mistakes in my recent The Monthly commentary on Noam Chomsky's Sydney Peace Prize (SPP) award. Yes, I ought to have been more careful in identifying the provenance of two Chomsky quotes. His defence of holocaust denial on freedom of speech grounds derived from a private letter. Chomsky's remarkable description of Robert Faurisson as a 'relatively apolitical liberal' was drawn from a latter essay during the so-called Faurisson affair. As my friend and fellow 'racist' Philip Mendes has written:

Chomsky's failure to recognise the anti-Semitic implications of Holocaust denial, and his decision to provide a political character reference for a leading figure in the international neo-Nazi movement was astounding. The overall effect of his statement was to promote a reversal of the roles of Nazi persecutor and Jewish victim.

All this is beside the point. Chomsky made those statements. Frankly I don't care if he lunched with the Dalai Lama in Lebanon, for when he met with, and praised, leaders of the fundamentalist Shia Muslim group Hezbollah, he lent credibility to one of the most

Middle East, one committed to destroying Israel. As I write in the Monthly, Chomsky's fraternisation with Hezbollah was unlikely to help foster a "common humanity", as the jury's citation for his award applauded. Likewise his Faurission affair interventions can hardly be described as "unfailing moral courage". Finally, in his defence of Chomsky, Brull makes the completely unfounded allegation that I have accused BDS proponents of supporting terrorism. Whilst I think BDS supporters are at best naive and contribute next to nothing towards practical reconciliation and peacemaking, this is simply untrue. In the words of my

anti-Semitic and anti-democratic organisations in the

Most fair-minded observers agree that a negotiated peace settlement based upon a two-state solution will only be attained by bringing together moderates on both sides of the equation and sidelining extremists, whether Greater Israel Zionists or Arab-Palestinian militants committed to a 'one-state' solution. Aside from practical steps such as ending the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Palestinian leadership recognising Israel's right to exist, in simple terms what is required is a rhetorical sea change. Ending the demonisation of the Palestinians by sections of Jewish and Israeli community must be accompanied by ending the demonisation of Israel by

Monthly piece:

much of the Arab world and, notably, sections of the western Left.

I understand that the likes of Michael Brull are unlikely to concede a point to those they consider Zionists and social democratic sell-outs, let alone issue an apology for the unsubstantiated slur of racism. And the political backsliding and intellectual dissembling common to Chomsky and his acolytes will inexorably continue. In recent days the moral one has disowned his former 'socialist' friend Hugo Chavez on account of his undemocratic tendencies. Truth told, the veriest idiot predicted that a former army chief was likely to become yet another Latin American populist with an authoritarian streak.

Let me finish by testing the boundaries of the ABC's advertising regulations. For left-of-centre Australians and readers of The Drum who are sincerely committed to a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict I encourage them to part with a few hard-earned dollars and pick up a copy of the July edition of The Monthly. There they will discover precisely why Chomsky's choice as SPP winner is so incongruous given his non-existent contribution to the achievement of that noble aspiration. Some commentators like to call this the boring truth.

<u>Nick Dyrenfurth</u> is an academic and the author or editor of several books on Australian politics and history. http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/2787088.html

## German prosecutors drop Demjanjuk sentence appeal Friday July 8, 2011 3:30pm GMT



BERLIN (Reuters) - German prosecutors withdrew their appeal on Friday against a court decision to free convicted Nazi death camp guard John Demjanjuk. Munich prosecutors said the 91-year-old Demjanjuk no longer posed a flight risk since he is confined to a nursing home.

Ukraine-born Demjanjuk is stateless after being stripped of his U.S. citizenship before his extradition to Germany in 2009.

In May a Munich court convicted Demjanjuk of helping to kill more than 28,000 people at the Sobibor camp in German-occupied Poland during World War Two.

But prosecutors later filed an appeal against Demjanjuk's five-year prison sentence and his immediate release from jail, which the court said was because of his advanced age. Prosecutors had initially demanded a six-year sentence.

Demjanjuk's lawyers have also appealed his guilty verdict but it will take at least a year to go through the required legal procedures.

Demjanjuk, who was once top of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of most wanted Nazi war criminals, said he was drafted into the Soviet army in 1941 and then taken prisoner by the Germans.

Demjanjuk was initially sentenced to death two decades ago in Israel for being the notorious "Ivan the Terrible" camp guard at Treblinka in Poland.

The guilty verdict was overturned on appeal by Israel's supreme court in 1993 after new evidence emerged pointing to a case of mistaken identity.

(Reporting by Kalina Oroschakoff; editing by Robert Woodward)

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http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFTRE7674 3020110708

# Blogging on ... commentary by Barbarossa Another Lipstadt-Irving Action? - but with roles reversed this time.



The face of Jew-hatred. UCU general secretary Sally Hunt

A leading Jewish academic has threatened the University and College Union with legal action as the backlash against its rejection of the widely-accepted definition of antisemitism reached new levels this week. Lawyers acting for Ronnie Fraser, director of Academic Friends of Israel, have written to UCU general secretary Sally Hunt alleging the Union's stance breaches equality laws. Mr Fraser, a freelance maths lecturer, demanded that UCU should 'acknowledge it has been guilty of institutional antisemitism' and publicly apologise to its Jewish members and ex-members.

Four more Jewish academics resigned from the UCU on Tuesday. The quartet – all representatives of the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities – said UCU's 'racist policy towards Jews' was incompatible with their membership.

It is believed that if Mr Fraser's case goes to trial it could be as significant as the Irving-Lipstadt\* case of 2000, when convicted Holocaust denier David Irving lost a libel suit.

Anthony Julius, of law firm Mishcon de Reya, is representing Mr Fraser. He also defended Professor Lipstadt and said he could understand why people were comparing the cases. 'In terms of the witnesses and issues raised it seems a fair analogy,' he said.

'We sent UCU a serious letter. There's no element of bluff involved. The threat does not exceed the reality.

The letter was sent in the full expectation that there's something that could go to trial and we are ready for that.'

Mr Fraser has also demanded that the union repeals its resolution rejecting the definition of antisemitism. His spokesman said: 'Ronnie Fraser has decided enough is enough. Having experienced various instances of institutionally antisemitic behaviour by the UCU over the years, the passing of the resolution in Harrogate was the final straw. Countless attempts at education and constructive debate by the AFI have fallen on deaf ears, forcing him to take this action.'

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles last week attacked the Union, saying its Jewish members had become 'fair game for invective.'

\* Recommended reading: 'History on Trial: My Day in Court with David Irving' ISBN-13: 978-0060593773

**21:09** So do I **Larry**, but the UCU will settle. I can't see them going to trial unfortunately. If anyone had done this to Muslims it'd be a different story. There is a lot of anti-Semitism lurking under the surface in this country.

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http://my.telegraph.co.uk/barbarossa/barbarossa/2744/ /2744/

From an email-sender who disagrees with the views expressed by an unknown history buff who reviews a specific historical event and concludes the dropping of two A-bombs on Japan was good because it ended the 'demented fanaticism', civilized Japan and created a worthy new world order of which Americans can be proud – hedonism writ large embodied in consumerism. Oh, oh, oh – is there something missing in such a world view?

# Subject: HISTORY NOT taught in High School! Tinian Island, Pacific Ocean

A bit of propaganda....What a misguided sense of rightousness....History is always written by the victors. nhey neglect to say that the Emperor was trying to negotiate peace as they realised they would have been beaten by regular bombs but the Yanks wanted to test the A bomb ... Not excusing the barbaric acts but a look at history will show what we Christians have done ... Crusaders slaughtering people, slaves we had in US and even Australia we kidnapped the Kanakas from Pacific Islands to work on the sugar cane as virtual slaves. And we were supposedly

civilised. Were we any better? Education is what raised the standards of Japan and will do the same for the 3rd world countries today ... I find e-mails such as this one just plain fascinating. Although we do not forget, history fades into the shadows of our mind and we seldom think about it. But, we should remember and we should be constantly reminded of our history, where we came from and how we got here. Kind of interesting. Anyway, I think so = 1

#### **Tinian Island, Pacific Ocean**





It's a small island, less than 40 square miles, a flat green Dot in the vastness of Pacific blue. Fly over it and you notice a slash across its north end of uninhabited bush, a long thin line that looks like an overgrown dirt runway. If you didn't know what it was, you wouldn't give it a second glance out your airplane window.

On the ground, you see the runway isn't dirt but tarmac and crushed limestone, abandoned with weeds sticking out of it. Yet this is arguably the most historical airstrip on earth. This is where World War II was won.

On July 24, 1944, 30,000 US Marines landed on the beaches of Tinian. Eight days later, over 8,000 of the 8,800 Japanese soldiers on the island were dead – vs. 328 Marines, and four months later the Seabees had built the busiest airfield of WWII - dubbed North Field - enabling B-29 Superfortresses to launch air attacks on the Philippines, Okinawa, and mainland Japan. Late in the afternoon of August 5, 1945, a B-29 was maneuvered over a bomb loading pit, then after lengthy preparations, taxied to the east end of North Field's main runway, Runway Able, and at 2:45am in

the early morning darkness of August 6, took off. The B-29 was piloted by Col. Paul Tibbets of the US Army Air Force, who had named the plane after his mother, *Enola Gay*. The crew named the bomb they were carrying *Little Boy*.



This is Runway Able

Six hours later at 8:15am, Japan time, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, in the pre-dawn hours of August 9, a B-29 named Bockscar – a pun on "boxcar" after its flight commander Captain Fred Bock, piloted by Major Charles Sweeney took off from Runway Able. Finding its primary target of Kokura obscured by clouds, Sweeney proceeded to the secondary target of Nagasaki, over which, at 11:01am, bombardier Kermit Beahan released the atomic bomb dubbed Fat Man.

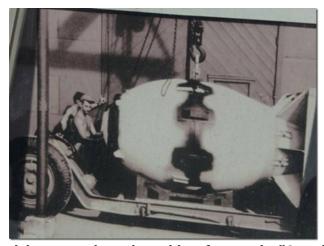


Here is "Atomic Bomb Pit #1" where Little Boy was loaded onto Enola Gay.



There are pictures displayed in the pit, now glassenclosed. This one shows Little Boy being hoisted into Enola Gay's bomb bay.





And here on the other side of ramp is "Atomic Bomb Pit #2" where Fat Man was loaded onto Bockscar.

The commemorative plaque records that 16 hours after the nuking of Nagasaki, "On August 10, 1945 at 0300, the Japanese Emperor, without his cabinet's consent, decided to end the Pacific War."

Take a good look at these pictures. This is where World War II ended with total victory of America over Japan. I was there all alone. There were no other visitors and no one lives anywhere near for miles.

Visiting the Bomb Pits, walking along deserted Runway Able in solitude, was a moment of extraordinarily

powerful solemnity. It was a moment of deep reflection. Most people, when they think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reflect on the numbers of lives killed in the nuclear blasts - at least 70,000 and 50,000 respectively. Being here caused me to reflect on the number of lives saved - how many more Japanese and Americans would have died in a continuation of the war had the nukes not been dropped.

Yet that was not all. It's not just that the nukes obviated the US invasion of Japan, Operation Downfall, that would have caused upwards of a million American and Japanese deaths or more. It's that nuking Hiroshima and Nagasaki were of extraordinary humanitarian benefit to the nation and people of Japan. Let's go to this cliff on the nearby island of Saipan to learn why.

Saipan is less than a mile north of Tinian. ... The month before the Marines took Tinian, on June 15, 1944, 71,000 Marines landed on Saipan. They faced 31,000 Japanese soldiers determined not to surrender.

Japan had colonized Saipan after World War I and turned the island into a giant sugar cane plantation. By the time of the Marine invasion, in addition to the 31,000 entrenched soldiers, some 25,000 Japanese settlers were living on Saipan, plus thousands more Okinawans, Koreans, and native islanders brutalized as slaves to cut the sugar cane.

There were also one or two thousand Korean "comfort women" – kanji in Japanese – abducted young women from Japan's colony of Korea to service the Japanese soldiers as sex slaves. See: *The Comfort Women: Japan's Brutal Regime of Enforced Prostitution in the Second World War*, by George Hicks.

Within a week of their landing, the Marines set up a civilian prisoner encampment that quickly attracted a couple thousand Japanese and others wanting US food and protection. When word of this reached Emperor Hirohito - who contrary to the myth was in full charge of the war- he became alarmed that radio interviews of the well-treated prisoners broadcast to Japan would subvert his people's will to fight.

As meticulously documented by historian Herbert Bix in *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*, the Emperor issued an order for all Japanese civilians on Saipan to commit suicide.

The order included the promise that, although the civilians were of low caste, their suicide would grant them a status in heaven equal to those honored soldiers who died in combat for their Emperor.

And that is why the precipice in the picture, below, is known as Suicide Cliff, off which over 20,000 Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths to comply with their fascist emperor's desire - mothers flinging their babies off the cliff first or in their arms as they jumped.

Anyone reluctant or refused, such as the Okinawan or Korean slaves, were shoved off at gunpoint by the Jap soldiers. Then the soldiers themselves proceeded to hurl themselves into the ocean to drown off a sea cliff afterwards called Banzai Cliff.

Of the 31,000 Japanese soldiers on Saipan, the Marines killed 25,000, 5,000 jumped off Banzai Cliff, and only the remaining thousand were taken prisoner. The extent of this demented fanaticism is very hard for any civilized mind to fathom- especially when it is devoted not to anything noble but barbarian evil instead.

The vast brutalities inflicted by the Japanese on their conquered and colonized peoples of China, Korea, the Philippines, and throughout their "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" was a hideously depraved horror. And they were willing to fight to the death to defend it. So they had to be nuked.

The only way to put an end to the Japanese barbarian horror was unimaginably colossal destruction against

which they had no defense whatever. Nuking Japan was not a matter of justice, revenge, or it getting what it deserved.

It was the only way to end the Japanese dementia. And it worked - for the Japanese. They stopped being barbarians and started being civilized. They achieved more prosperity- and peace- than they ever knew, or could have achieved had they continued fighting and not been nuked. The shock of their getting nuked is responsible.

We achieved this because we were determined to achieve victory. Victory without apologies. Despite perennial liberal demands we do so, America and its government has never apologized for nuking Japan ... hopefully, America never will.



[Suicide Cliff – the question to ask is: How many individuals suicide in the various free and democratic countries established after World War Two ended? – ed.]





Oh, yes...Guinness lists Saipan as having the best, most equitable, weather in the world. And the beaches? Well, take a look.